

Application No. 10/696,567

Docket No. 300200058-2 US (1509-464)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus comprising an electronic camera for producing an image signal, a user operable picture taking control for permitting selectively activating the camera to take pictures, and an additional physically or mechanically operable user control for receiving an input from a user and for generating a saliency signal while the image signal is being produced, operation of at least a part of the camera apparatus being arranged to be controlled in response to the saliency signal.

2. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes compression circuitry for receiving the ~~[[said]]~~ image signals and for compressing ~~them~~ the image signals to an extent determined by the saliency signal.

3. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes a buffer for receiving said image signal, the buffer having a ~~length~~ capacity arranged to be controlled by the saliency signal ~~[[in]]~~ during operation of the camera apparatus.

4. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes Image selection circuitry for receiving the saliency and image signals and for selectively passing ones of said image signals as determined by said saliency signal.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part comprises a memory with management circuitry for selectively retaining in said memory images associated with higher saliency levels ~~in said memory~~ in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

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6. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said memory is arranged for storing the saliency signal ~~together with~~ and the image signal.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ Camera apparatus according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein said part comprises a memory including management circuitry for selectively retaining in said memory images associated with higher saliency levels ~~in said memory~~ in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

8. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said memory is arranged for storing the saliency signal ~~together with~~ and the image signal.

9. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further including a memory arranged for storing the saliency signal ~~together with~~ and the image signal.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further including a user operable control for picture taking control of the camera ~~in addition to the user control~~.

11. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control includes a normal picture taking control on the camera.

12. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one further physically or mechanically operable user control for generating a corresponding related saliency signal.

13. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to ~~provide~~ form a complex saliency signal.

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14. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising saliency circuitry for generating an image related saliency signal in response to the image signal.

15. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to ~~provide~~ form a complex saliency signal.

16. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further including circuitry for incorporating said saliency signal in each of said image signals.

17. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control ~~forms~~ is part of the body of the camera or is physically attached ~~thereto~~ to the camera body.

18. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control is a remote control for communicating with the camera.

19. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control comprises a physically movable control member and a sensor ~~[[for]]~~ arranged to be responsive to movement of the control member.

20. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control comprises a pressure or force sensing transducer.

21. (Original) Camera apparatus comprising an electronic camera for producing an image signal, a physically or mechanically operable user control for receiving an input from a user and for generating a saliency signal having at least three values or is continuously variable while the image signal is being produced, operation of at least a part of the camera apparatus being arranged to be controlled in response to the saliency signal.

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22. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes compression circuitry for receiving the ~~[[said]]~~ image signals and for compressing ~~[[them]]~~ the image signals to an extent determined by the saliency signal.

23. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes image selection circuitry for receiving the saliency and image signals and for selectively passing ones of said image signals as determined by said saliency signal.

24. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes a buffer for receiving said image signal, the buffer ~~length~~ capacity being controlled by the saliency signal ~~[[in]]~~ during operation of the camera apparatus.

25. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part comprises a memory including management circuitry for selectively retaining images associated with higher saliency levels in said memory in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

26. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said memory is arranged for storing the saliency signal ~~together with~~ and the image signal.

27. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further including a memory arranged for storing the saliency signal ~~together with~~ and the image signal.

28. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further including a user operable control for picture taking control of the camera in ~~addition to the user control~~.

29. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control includes a normal picture taking control on the camera.

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30. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising at least one further physically or mechanically operable user control for generating a corresponding related saliency signal.

31. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to provide form a complex saliency signal.

32. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising saliency circuitry for generating an image related saliency signal in response to the image signal.

33. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to provide form a complex saliency signal.

34. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further including circuitry for incorporating said saliency signal in each of said Image signals.

35. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control ~~forms~~ is part of the body of the camera or is physically attached ~~thereto~~ to the camera.

36. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control ~~[[is]]~~ includes a remote control for communicating with the camera.

37. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control comprises a physically movable control member and a sensor ~~[[for]]~~ arranged to be responsive to movement of the control member.

38. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control comprises a pressure or force sensing transducer.

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39. (Currently amended) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saliency signal is binary.

40. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising an electronic camera for producing an image signal, at least two physically or mechanically operable user controls, each of the user controls being arranged for receiving an input from a user and for generating first and second saliency signals while the image signal is being produced, and saliency circuitry for combining said first and second saliency signals to provide form a complex saliency signal.

41. (Original) An imaging system according to claim 40, wherein operation of at least part of the camera apparatus is arranged to be controlled in response to the complex saliency signal.

42. (Currently amended) An imaging system according to claim 40, further comprising a separate user operable picture taking control for permitting selectively activating the camera to take pictures.

43. (Original) An imaging system according to claim 40, wherein the first of said saliency signals has more than two values.

44. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising an electronic camera for producing an image signal, a physically or mechanically operable user control for receiving an input from a user and for generating a first saliency signal while the image signal is being produced, saliency circuitry for generating an image related second saliency signal in response to the image signal, and circuitry for combining said saliency signals to provide form a complex saliency signal.

45. (Original) An imaging system according to claim 44, wherein operation of at least a part of the camera apparatus is arranged to be controlled in response to the complex saliency signal.

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46. (Original) An imaging system according to claim 44, further comprising a separate user operable picture taking control for permitting the camera to take pictures.

47. (Currently amended) An imaging system according to claim 44, wherein the first of said saliency signals has more than two values.

48. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera having a picture taking control for ~~enabling~~ selectively activating the camera to ~~supply~~ derive picture signals, the camera further including a user operable control for generating a saliency signal~~[[;]]~~ and ~~[[a]]~~ compression circuit circuitry for compressing the picture signals to an extent determined by the saliency signal.

49. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the saliency signal has more than two values.

50. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 48, wherein the camera includes the ~~circuit~~ circuitry.

51. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera having a picture taking control for ~~enabling~~ selectively activating the camera to ~~supply~~ derive picture signals, the camera further including a user operable control for generating a saliency signal~~[[;]]~~ and a buffer for receiving the picture signals and having a ~~length~~ capacity determined in response to the saliency signal.

52. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the saliency signal has more than two values.

53. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 51, wherein the camera includes the buffer.

54. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera having a picture taking control for ~~enabling~~ selectively activating the camera to ~~supply~~

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derive picture signals, the camera further including a user operable control for generating a saliency signal~~[[;]]~~ and ~~[[a]]~~ picture selection ~~circuit~~ circuitry for selectively passing the picture signals in response to the saliency signal.

55. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 54, wherein the saliency signal has more than two values.

56. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 54, wherein the camera includes the ~~circuit~~ circuitry.

57. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera having a picture taking control for ~~enabling~~ selectively activating the camera to ~~supply~~ derive picture signals, the camera further including a user operable control for generating a saliency signal~~[[;]]~~ and a memory arranged for selectively retaining images associated with higher saliency levels in said memory in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

58. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the saliency signal has more than two values.

59. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An apparatus ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 57, wherein the camera includes the memory.